




**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Division of Medical Assistance**  
600 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02111  
[www.mass.gov/dma](http://www.mass.gov/dma)

**MassHealth**  
**All Provider Bulletin 126**  
**September 2003**

**TO:** All Providers Participating in MassHealth  
**FROM:** Douglas S. Brown, Acting Commissioner   
**RE:** HIPAA Compliance for Electronic Claim Submissions

***Deadline for HIPAA Compliance***

The deadline for compliance with the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) of 1996 transaction and code set rules is October 16, 2003. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services require that after October 15, 2003, all electronic claims be submitted in a HIPAA-compliant format. This bulletin provides information for electronic submitters who will not be ready to submit HIPAA-compliant electronic claim transactions by October 16, 2003.

If you are approved for production and are submitting Professional (837P), Dental (837D), or Institutional (837I) claim transactions or are certified to submit claims in the NCPDP 5.1 pharmacy claim format, you are submitting HIPAA-compliant claims.

***Accommodating Providers Who Are Not Yet Submitting HIPAA-Compliant Claims***

We recognize that, for a variety of reasons, some electronic submitters will not be ready to submit HIPAA-compliant electronic claims by October 16, 2003. We will, therefore, continue to accept, for a limited period of time, MassHealth-proprietary electronic claims from non-HIPAA-compliant providers who request an extension. Providers receiving an extension will not have to force their claims to paper, and can instead focus their efforts on achieving HIPAA compliance for claim submissions.

In order to request an extension to the deadline, providers must contact us at the appropriate phone number listed below as soon as possible, but no later than **October 15, 2003**, to report the earliest possible date they expect to begin testing. This date must be **no later than January 30, 2004**.

Pharmacy Providers: 617-423-9841  
All Other Providers: 1-800-438-4480

If you have confirmed a testing date, but believe that you will not meet your scheduled date, you must advise us of the new date upon which you will submit your initial test file.

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***Confirmation of  
Extension***

**If you do not contact us by October 15, 2003, you may, in fact, not be allowed to continue submitting MassHealth-proprietary electronic claims.** Upon receipt of your call, we will send a confirmation letter documenting the information that you provided to us. This letter will confirm that you have been scheduled for testing and allow you to continue submitting electronic claims in the MassHealth-proprietary format as you work toward HIPAA compliance.

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***Providers Who Use  
Clearinghouses and  
Billing Intermediaries  
to Submit Claims***

If you submit your claims through an intermediary, contact them now to determine their status on HIPAA compliance. A list of software vendors, billing intermediaries, and clearinghouses that plan to support HIPAA-compliant transactions to MassHealth is also available on our provider Web site. Go to [www.mahealthweb.com](http://www.mahealthweb.com), then click on HIPAA. The list identifies vendors that are approved for production in the 837P, 837D, and 837I formats and those who have started testing or plan to start testing with us soon.

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***Providers Who Submit  
Paper Claims***

If you currently submit paper claims, but are working toward converting to HIPAA-compliant electronic claim transactions, please let us know when you expect to be ready to submit a test file. If you submit fewer than 2,400 claim lines a year, you may be interested in the free software package called Provider Claims Submission Software (PCSS) that we offer. This software will enable you to submit HIPAA-compliant electronic claims to MassHealth. For more information about PCSS, contact the HIPAA Support Center at 1-888-848-5068, or by e-mail at [mahipaasupport@unisys.com](mailto:mahipaasupport@unisys.com).

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***E-mail Your  
Ideas for  
Improvement***

We look forward to the new efficiencies that HIPAA-compliance for transactions and code sets will bring to both the Division and MassHealth providers. Through HIPAA and otherwise, we continue to pursue ways in which we can reduce administrative burdens and become a better business partner. We encourage you to e-mail your suggestions to [improve@nt.dma.state.ma.us](mailto:improve@nt.dma.state.ma.us).

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***Questions***

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, call MassHealth Provider Services at 617-628-4141 or 1-800-325-5231.

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